**Amendments to the Specification:**

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 29 with the following rewritten paragraph:

In this regard, the data obtained from tracking ~~memory 26~~ memory 14 is used to make adjustments to illumination pattern 20 to ensure that each image transparency 12 is illuminated in a fashion that best suits the ~~characteristics~~ characteristics of image transparency 12. It will be appreciated that each image transparency associated with a patient is captured at a different time and the that it is often the case that they are captured using different equipment. Sometimes different media is used to capture the ~~equipment~~ image. Accordingly, image densities and other characteristics of image transparency 12 such as a density adjustment curve for image transparency 12, can be obtained using the data obtained from tracking ~~memory 28~~ memory 14. Such data can include but is not limited to data that identifies the media type, date of image formation, equipment used for image formation, and information characterizing the imaging process used to form the image. Control processing unit 28 uses this information to form illumination area 18 having an appearance that will optimize the appearance of image transparency 12 when light from the illumination area 18 is viewed through image transparency 12. This can help a medical professional to compare image transparencies that are captured at different times in different ways and using different techniques and media.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 23 with the following rewritten paragraph:

An optional audio input system 44 can be provided that allows the capture and storage of audio data or transcription to text, including transcription performed off-site. An optional tablet computing device 70 can be provided with a stylus 36 for handwritten data entry in a text entry surface 42. As noted above, the viewing surface 18 of illumination device 16 can also optionally be provided touch screen 34 for accepting handwritten input using stylus 36 or some other writing device. Thus, physicians or other medical professionals can provide annotations that will be associated with image transparency 12 directly and can have this annotation stored electronically as part of the patient's medical record either by storage in database 30 or by storage in tracking memory 14. Other

forms of input systems can be used for such purposes including but not limited to systems such as a touch pad input, a 4-way switch, a 6-way switch, an 8-way switch trackball system, a joystick system, a keypad system, a mouse system, a gesture recognition system or other such systems.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 12 with the following rewritten paragraph:

The dimensions and location of masked area 72 are sensed from information encoded on associated tracking memory 14, as described subsequently. Alternately, viewing surface 18 having a touch screen 34 may sense the size and position of image transparency 12 using for example, a positional ~~sensor 74~~ sensor (not shown) such as light sensors, capacitance sensors, touch screen type sensors and conventional contact electro-mechanical switches, with positional ~~sensor 74~~ sensor (not shown) providing a signal that indicates an area of the viewing surface 18 that corresponds to the position of image transparency 12. This causes illumination device 16 to illuminate a masked area 72 that confronts the image transparency 12. Brightness controls 82 are provided. Optionally, color tint of masked area 72 can be adjusted using similar on-screen interface color tint ~~tools 84~~ tools (not shown), such as a sliding bar icon.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 24 with the following rewritten paragraph:

As shown in the above description, viewing device 10 of Fig. 1 provides a platform for interaction with the overall diagnostic imaging and records maintenance system 78 of Fig. 2. There are a number of options for initiating and validating the use of viewing device 10. In the mode of access described hereinabove, viewer 40 positions image transparency 12 against viewing device 10 to initiate viewing operation. Radio frequency read write ~~device 24~~ device 22, obtains the necessary information from the associated tracking memory 14 to identify the image transparency 12. Viewing area radio frequency read write device 54, obtains the necessary information from radio frequency transponder 48 associated with the viewer 40. Control processing unit 28 then validates and, optionally authenticates, viewer 40 permissions, in

conjunction with database 30. Viewer 40, once authorized, is then permitted access to some or all of the patient images and data from patient database 30.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 11 with the following rewritten paragraph:

Another benefit of the viewing device 10 of the present invention relates to facility of annotation. Viewing device 10 provides a useful mechanism for recording various notes, instructions, and observations from members of the diagnosis and treatment staff. Annotation can be obtained in a number of different ways. Comments and annotation can be obtained while a medical professional is observing an image transparency 12. Such comments and annotations can be obtained and converted into digital form using text based, video based, graphics based and or audio based embodiments. The ~~digital data~~ digital data can be stored in a database 30 or in some storage facility linked to database 30. Alternately, audio comments could be transcribed. Using a transcription service, viewer 40 can simply make observations into audio capture system 44 and have text automatically stored in a file in database 30 and/or displayed on display device 24 in text window 66. Transcription service s could even be remotely located, using either human operators or speech recognition and text conversion software, for example. Viewer 40 could then display transcribed text in, for example, text window 66 of FIG. 1, enabling editing and correction.

Delete from the Parts List on page 13, line 27:

~~62      set viewing permissions~~

Delete from the Parts List on page 13, line 33:

~~74      positional sensor~~

Delete from the Parts List on page 14, line 4:

~~84      color tint tools~~